

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 NEA-10 OIC-02

EB-08 AID-05 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /103 W

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R 251411Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0596

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME FOR FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNIDO, OCON, EIND, EAGR

SUBJECT: FIRST UNIDO CONSULTATION MEETING ON THE FERTILIZER
INDUSTRY

1. FOLLOWING IS FIRST REPORT ON CONSULTATION MEETING
ON THE FERTILIZER INDUSTRY WHICH TOOK PLACE IN VIENNA
FROM JANUARY 17 TO 21. MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY SOME
150 DELEGATES AND PARTICIPANTS (SEE COMMENT BELOW
ON THESE TERMS) FROM 60 COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL
ORGANIZATIONS.

2. PHYSICAL ARRANGEMENTS: THE SEATING ARRANGEMENTS FOR
THE CONSULTATION WERE UNSATISFACTORY AND, IN OUR VIEW,
NOT COMPATIBLE WITH A MEETING DESIGNED TO FACILITATE EASY
AND FULL PARTAKING IN THE DISCUSSION BY ALL PARTICIPANTS.

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THE U.S. PARTICIPANTS, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE
RESTRICTED TO ONE SEAT AT THE TABLE IN A CROWDED
ROOM, MAKING IT HIGHLY IMPRACTICAL TO OBTAIN QUICK
ACCESS TO THE MICROPHONE AS THE DISCUSSION PROCEEDED
ON THE PART OF THOSE NOT SEATED AT THE TABLE. PROTESTS
TO THE SECRETARIAT CONCERNING THESE UNSATISFACTORY
ARRANGEMENTS HAS NO RESULT, THE SECRETARIAT PLEADING

LACK OF SPACE IN THE RELATIVELY SMALL ROOM IN WHICH THE MEETING WAS HELD. IN THE LIGHT OF THIS EXPERIENCE WE INTEND TO TAKE THE LINE SPECIFICALLY IN PREPARATION FOR THE IRON AND STEEL CONSULTATION, WHERE WE ASSUME A LARGER PARTICIPATION FROM THE US, THAT IN THE FUTURE, EASY PARTICIPATION IN THE DISCUSSION MUST BE ASSURED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS.

3. OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE CONSULTATION:
AS FORESEEN, THE MEETING CHOSE FERNANDEZ OF INDIA, WHO HAD SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING, TO BE CHAIRMAN AND ELECTED AS VICE-CHAIRMAN SALGADO (MEXICO), HONTI (HUNGARY), OKYNE (GHANA) AND SANDER (FRG).
THE MEETING ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING AGENDA:

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
B. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
C. THE ALLOCATION OF FERTILIZER PRODUCTION BETWEEN DEVELOPING AND DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND AMONGST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEMSELVES (ISSUE 1)

D. INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED FOR THE PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF FERTILIZERS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (ISSUE 2)

E. THE CONSTRUCTION OF FERTILIZER PLANTS (ISSUE 3)

F. THE OPERATION OF FERTILIZER PLANTS (ISSUE 3)

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G. THE FINANCING OF FERTILIZER PLANTS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE (ISSUE 4)

H. FOLLOW-UP OF THE FIRST CONSULTATION MEETING.
(THE ISSUES REFERRED TO IN THIS AGENDA ARE FROM DOCUMENT ID/WG.242/2.)

DESPITE PRE-CONSULTATION MEETING REQUESTS TO THE SECRETARIAT BY THE MISSION THAT US PARTICIPANTS SIT BEHIND CARDS GIVING NAMES AND AFFILIATIONS, THE PLACE CARDS IDENTIFIED ONLY THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF THE PARTICIPANTS. THIS ARRANGEMENT PROBABLY RESULTED FROM SECRETARIAT UNCERTAINTY REGARDING ATTENDANCE UNTIL THE LAST MOMENT AND PROVIDED THE EASIEST WAY OF DEALING WITH THE PROBLEM OF IDENTIFYING PARTICIPANTS. BY FAR THE LARGEST NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED THE MEETING AS MEMBERS OF DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING COUNTRIES. THE US PARTICIPANTS MADE IT CLEAR EARLY IN THE PROCEEDINGS THAT THEY WERE ATTENDING IN THEIR OWN CAPACITY AND NOT

AS REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US GOVERNMENT NOR AS OFFICIAL
REPRESENTATIVES OF INDUSTRY OR LABOR AND THAT
THEY WERE IN NO POSITION TO BIND ANY OF THESE TO ANY
"AGREEMENTS" OR CONCLUSIONS OF THE CONSULTATION.
BECAUSE OF THE CHAIRMAN'S HABIT OF CALLING UPON
SPEAKERS AS "THE DELEGATE FROM," IT WAS NECESSARY
TO REITERATE AND UNDERLINE THE NATURE OF THE AMERICAN
PARTICIPATION, MUCH TO THE ANNOYANCE OF THE CHAIRMAN
WHO WAS INCLINED ARGUE THAT THE CONSULTATION WAS AMONG
COUNTRIES. IT ALSO RESULTED, WHEN ONE OF THE US
PARTICIPANTS INSISTED ON HAVING THE REPORT OF THE
MEETING REFER NOT ONLY TO "DELEGATES" BUT ALSO TO
"PARTICIPANTS," IN HIS ASKING FOR A SHOW OF HANDS FROM
THOSE WHO REGARDED THEMSELVES AS PARTICIPANTS RATHER
THAN MEMBERS OF DELEGATIONS UNDER A SINGLE CHAIRMAN.
ONLY A FEW GROUP B COUNTRY PARTICIPANTS, IN ADDITION
TO THE AMERICANS, SO IDENTIFIED THEMSELVES. AT ONE
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POINT THE CHAIRMAN WENT SO FAR AS TO SUGGEST THAT
THE VIEWS OF THOSE "WHO WERE SPEAKING ONLY FOR
THEMSELVES" NEED NOT BE GIVEN MUCH WEIGHT IN CONTRAST
TO THOSE WHO WERE SPEAKING AS DELEGATES AND THEREFORE
REPRESENTING VIEWS OF ENTITIES WHICH SHOULD BE TAKEN
TO ACCOUNT.

4. ALL DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE IN THE FULL MEETING,
AND EARLIER NOTION OF BREAKING DOWN INTO WORKING GROUPS
TO DISCUSS DIFFERENT ISSUES HAVING BEEN DISCARDED WHEN

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IT WAS OPPOSED BY VARIOUS DELEGATIONS. THE UNDERSTANDING WHICH GROUP B CHAIRMAN (VON SCHENCK) THOUGHT HE HAD OBTAINED AT THE JANUARY 11 INTER-GROUP MEETING WITH THE SECRETARIAT (VIENNA 0244) THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SUMMARY RECORD IN WHICH DIFFERENT VIEWS ON THE VARIOUS ISSUES COULD BE RECORDED WAS SCUTTLED WHEN THE SECRETARIAT TOOK THE POSITION THAT SUCH RECORD WOULD BE CONTRARY TO GA RESOLUTIONS ESPECIALLY RES. 3415(XXX). THUS, THE RECORD OF THE MEETING CONSISTS OF A REPORT EMBODYING CONSENSUS CONCLUSIONS, SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON EACH OF THE ISSUES DISCUSSED DRAFTED BY THE CHAIRMAN WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE VICE CHAIRMEN AND MODIFIED AT VARIOUS POINTS DURING THE PLENARY EXAMINATION OF THE DRAFT. PARTICIPANTS:DELEGATES WERE PERMITTED TO REGISTER FORMAL DISSENTS BUT THESE WERE CONFINED TO A SMALL NUMBER OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESERVATIONS BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION.

5. GROUP ALIGNMENTS DID NOT EXPLICITLY INTRUDE INTO THE DISCUSSIONS. NO STATEMENTS WERE MADE ON BEHALF OF GEOGRAPHIC GROUPS OR THE G-77. IN GENERAL, THE MEETING WAS BUSINESSLIKE, WITH IDEOLOGICAL OR POLITICAL THEMES IN LITTLE EVIDENCE. THIS ATMOSPHERE WAS PROBABLY CREATED IN LARGE PART BY THE CONSENSUS AMONG FERTILIZERS EXPERTS WHICH EMERGED IN THE OPENING DISCUSSION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE LDCS AS A GROUP SHOULD AIM AT ACHIEVING SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN FERTILIZERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND NOT LATER THAN THE YEAR 2000.

6. FERNANDEZ PROVED TO BE AN EXTREMELY STRONG AND OFTEN CAUSTIC CHAIRMAN PRODUCING THE INITIAL DRAFT OF THE REPORT OF THE CONSULTATION ALMOST SINGLE-HANDED AND THEN DEFENDING IT OR FORCING COMPROMISES AMONG THE EXPERTS. HE ALMOST COMPLETELY DOMINATED THE MEETING AND IT IS PROBABLY FAIR TO SAY THAT A WEAKER CHAIRMAN WOULD NOT

HAVE SUCCEEDED IN EXTRACTING AS BROAD A CONSENSUS ON
THE REPORT AMONG THE EXPERTS AS HE DID.

7. SEPTELS WILL REPORT ON SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF
DISCUSSION AND ON FOLLOW-UP STEPS SUGGESTED BY THE MEETING.

8. GROUP B HOLDS POST-MORTEM ON MEETING JANUARY 25 IN
ORDER TO DRAW LESSONS AND PREPARE FOR UPCOMING IRON
AND STEEL CONSULTATION. STIBRAVY

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